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Oswald 'acted alone'

WASHINGTON. — More than 2000 books have been written about the assassination of John F. Kennedy, most saying he was the victim of some unpunished conspiracy.

A book that has just come out may turn out to be the most controversial. If you believe polls, most people won't believe what it says.

It says there was no conspiracy to kill Kennedy. No Cuban connection. No Soviet intrigue. No CIA-FBI plot and military-industrial plot. No mob plot. No left-wing plot, no right-wing plot. No Lyndon Johnson scheme to seize the presidency.

It says that Kennedy was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone. If that sounds familiar, there's a reason. That's been the government line.

The Warren Commission reached the same conclusion, on September 24, 1974, in 296,000 words.

That was before *JFK*, the movie that convinced a whole generation that knew nothing about the killing that there was more to it than Oswald.

Lawyer Gerald Posner, 39, the author of *Case Closed*, says he's gone over all the old evidence and found some new evidence — in his own computer analysis of the famous Zapruder film, for example.

But nothing he found does more than support the overall conclusion that the assassination was the crazy act of a crazy man.

About the more than 2000 books he says have been written about the assassination, Posner says he didn't realise how vehemently others believe otherwise. He has been getting unfriendly calls from the assassination community. For the rest of his life, he's beginning to realise, he's going to the object of their scorn.

"I initially doubted that I would be able to convert those who hold on to a conspiracy theory as though it was a religion," he said. "But I thought that if they read my book with an open mind they would at least put the case of Oswald acting alone back in the discussion."

Now: "I don't think I'll get that hearing. The initial response has been vehement and at times quite nasty. I am a greater foe than their own intra-group squabbles about who killed Kennedy."

He'd been warned. James Phelan once wrote an article disputing one of the conspiracy advocates. He told Posner: "They won't ever let you alone again; they are still calling me 25 years later."

The American people have been sceptical from the start, and their scepticism has grown.

A Gallup Poll a week after the assassination said that only 29 per cent of Americans believed Oswald killed JFK. After the Warren Commission report came out, 56 per cent said they accepted it.

In a 1988 poll, only 13 per cent said Oswald was alone responsible. Three years later, that number fell to 11 per cent.